



Army raises stakes with crackdown on protests >>Page 20

**Resist Sudan's killer regime**



**POLITICS OF D-DAY**

>>Pages 14&15

# Socialist Worker

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## TENS OF THOUSANDS AGAINST TRUMP'S STATE VISIT



TENS OF thousands of people rallied and marched in central London on Tuesday against the state visit of US president Donald Trump. There were also protests across Britain.

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### AUSTERITY

Cuts kill more than 130,000 since 2012

MORE THAN 130,000 deaths in Britain could have been prevented if it hadn't been for the Tories' cuts.

A report by the Institute for Public Policy Research think tank released this week says preventable diseases are on the rise because public health budgets have been slashed since 2012.

>>Page 7

### TORY CRISIS



**May finally steps down as her party collapses**

THERESA MAY was to step down as Tory leader this week, just as her party entered a new phase of its meltdown.

Even Donald Trump weighed in to denounce her failures in negotiations with the European Union—and suggested Nigel Farage would do a better job.

>>Page 5

### EUROPE

The struggle against the rise of the right

RIGHT WING populists, racist politicians and outright Nazis were among the winners of last month's European elections.

Socialist Worker spoke to anti-racist campaigners across Europe about what lies behind the far right's success.

>>Pages 10&11

# AFTER TRUMP PROTESTS... NOW FIGHT HIS RACIST FRIENDS



NIGEL FARAGE and Tory hopeful Boris Johnson





## THE THINGS THEY SAY

**'Nigel Farage is a friend of mine. Boris is a friend of mine. They are two very good guys'**

US president Donald Trump

**'The president will do what the president wants'**

US national security advisor John Bolton

**'There's a lot more to be done than making speeches. Thinking, etc'**

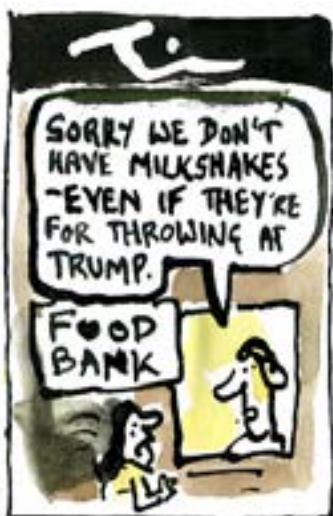
Steel boss Lord Paul is asked why he's spoken only once in the House of Lords

**'Parents should have the final say on what they want their children to know'**

Tory leadership candidate Esther McVey explains why children shouldn't be told about LGBT+ people

**'We didn't get everything right in coalition, but we did do a lot of good'**

Liberal Democrat leadership contender Jo Swinson



# Murdering Michael Jackson denies cover-up of massacre

**THE BRITISH Army "don't do conspiracies" according to a man responsible for at least two cover-ups of massacres.**

General Sir Mike Jackson was giving evidence at the hearing in Belfast into the 1971 Ballymurphy massacre.

Ten civilians, including a mother of eight and a Catholic priest, were killed across three days from 9 to 11 August by British soldiers.

The shootings in West Belfast followed the introduction of internment without trial. Jackson was a captain in the Parachute Regiment on deployment in Belfast at the time.

He described his role then as community relations and press liaison.

Michael Mansfield, lawyer for the family of victim Joseph Corr, asked



MIKE "MEMORY loss" Jackson

why soldiers involved in the shootings were not interviewed by the Royal Military Police at the time.

He put it that there had been an attempt to "cover up" the shooting of Joseph Corr and John Laverty on

11 August. Jackson responded, "It is a preposterous accusation which would require a huge number of people to be part of. It simply does not add up."

He added, "I have absolutely no doubt the IRA were

firing on soldiers and soldiers were firing on the IRA."

A newspaper article published later on 11 August described victims as gunmen, which their families have denied.

The inquest heard guns were not found when their bodies were recovered.

Jackson told the inquest he accepts it was likely he was a captain quoted by the newspaper, although coincidentally he did not recall giving the interview.

Jackson was second in command of the Parachute Regiment when they shot dead 14 unarmed people after a civil rights march in Derry five months after the Ballymurphy massacre.

He was later to command British forces during the invasion of Iraq.

**TROUBLEMAKER'S READER** will be delighted to know that luxury dog kennels costing up to £170,000 are on offer. The plush pads include air conditioning, heating, sound systems televisions and food and water dispensers.

They are made with materials, including oak and marble, and have pillars and engravings.

The Hecate Verona digs—boasting the comforts of a living room and windows—start at only £30,000.

A woof over their head

**FORMER TORY** bigot now Brexit MEP bigot Ann Widdecombe suggested science might one day "produce an answer" to being gay.

She added, "I do not imagine for one moment that the Brexit Party will be putting forward a policy on gay sex changes in its manifesto."

## Sex dungeon teacher fraudster banned

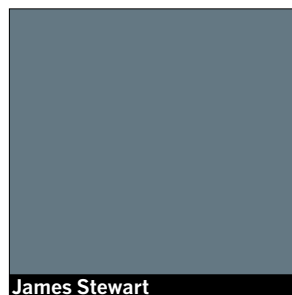
A DISGRACED head teacher who used school funds to build a "sex dungeon" inside his office has been banned from the profession.

James Stewart defrauded his school out of more than £100,000 in bogus expenses claims, including for smoked salmon, oysters and wine.

His office was found to have an "inner sanctum" containing lubricant and sex toys.

The Department for Education launched an investigation into his running of Sawtry Village Academy, Cambridgeshire, where he was executive principal.

He was convicted of



James Stewart

fraud and misconduct in public office and was jailed for four years in October 2017.

A Teaching Regulation Agency panel concluded in a report published last week that it was proportionate to ban Stewart from teaching indefinitely.

## Prosecution expert not entirely knowledgeable

A TRIAL at Southwark crown court in London that collapsed last week may have broader consequences.

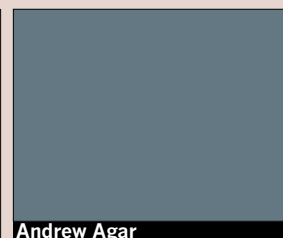
The case was over allegations of fraudulent selling of carbon credits.

It collapsed after an expert witness for the prosecution, Andrew Agar, was revealed to have no academic qualifications.

Agar has appeared as a prosecution witness in 20 trials and advised up to 50 police investigations.

He admitted he had never read a book about carbon credits.

But said he once



Andrew Agar

watched a documentary on the subject.

He said he kept sensitive material given to him by police in a cupboard under the stairs, but after some was lost during a leak he moved it.

Police didn't keep records of their meetings with him or what evidence he was given.

## Justice for the political lookalikes

THERESA May's resignation was devastating news for the Theresa May lookalike industry.

Troublemaker demands no redundancies and for nationalisation of the top 200 May lookalikes.

The Susan Scott Lookalikes agency pointed out, "Boris lookalikes are the most fun, as the guys can really ham it up."

"We have a Michael Gove and a Chuka Umunna who fancies himself as Sajid Javid."

**THERESA MAY'S** chief of staff Gavin Barwell is job hunting. His boss quitting was not one of his highlight events.

In his review of the previous week, emailed to MPs on last Tuesday, that warranted only a mention in small type in the final paragraph. He concentrated instead on the activities of leadership contenders Sajid Javid, Matt Hancock, Michael Gove and Jeremy Hunt. Keeping his options open?



The garage is that way

## Jets will come then won't fly

REMEMBER Britain's newish multimillion-pound fighter jet? The ones that aren't on the aircraft carriers—those ones.

The Ministry of Defence has bought 17 F-35s, with a plan to purchase 138 in total at a cost of mere £9.1 billion.

The aircraft, developed by the US aerospace giant Lockheed Martin, will allegedly fly from Britain's two aircraft carriers—eventually.

The US Government Accountability Office has warned that low stocks of spares, repair backlogs and mismatched parts kept the existing US squadron grounded for 30 percent of the time last year.

And even if the planes do fly they will still cost lots more.

The ones already purchased need a software update that costs about £30 million per plane.

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# We won't let Trump wreck our planet, say protesters

by ALISTAIR FARROW

**TENS OF thousands of people marched through central London on Tuesday to protest against Donald Trump's state visit.**

People turned out for different reasons—but a central one was Trump's climate change denial.

Extinction Rebellion activists Sienna and Nesta were on the protest. "Trump doesn't acknowledge the planet is dying and he won't do anything," Nesta told Socialist Worker.

"And by inviting him to come here our government is accepting this is a valid point of view."

Sienna added, "We need action. Something needs to change—and quickly."

She argued that protests can win gains, especially while the Tories are weak.

"If people keep protesting it shows the government that we are not having it," she said.

"Extinction Rebellion showed that radical action gets results and pushes our message up the agenda. We need more of that kind of thing on all fronts."

Youth worker RJ travelled up from Portsmouth to join the London protest.

## Dangerous

"Trump is a detestable man, but in a way that's irrelevant—there are a lot of detestable politicians," he told Socialist Worker.

"My kids were out for the climate strike last week. Trump's views on the climate make him dangerous."

"We need a revolution to get rid of the Trumps of this world."

Green MP Caroline Lucas told the crowd, "We will resist his efforts to take a wrecking ball to the Paris climate change agreement."

"We stand with all those fighting for climate justice."



PROTESTERS IN London's Trafalgar Square on Tuesday

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

## BACK STORY

**Thousands of people protested in London against Donald Trump**

- Fear about Trump's climate change denial and environmental policies pushed many to protest
- Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn and some union leaders joined too
- Some people protested because they support the European Union, but these were a minority
- Trump planned to head to Portsmouth after Socialist Worker went to press—where more protests were set to take place

Other protesters came to resist racism or defend services.

Mary from Leytonstone, east London, described Trump as "obnoxious". "I can't stand him," she told Socialist Worker.

"There are thousands of reasons to march. I'm here because of the threat to the NHS."

"The government has spent millions on policing this visit while the NHS is in crisis."

"It's a disgrace."

Small trade union contingents joined the protest.

Reading Trade Union Council brought its banner, and members of the RMT's Piccadilly and District

West branch brought theirs.

And there were CWU and Unite union balloons, and PCS flags and banners.

There was also a group of Liberal Democrats and other visible Remain elements on the protest.

Yet these elements were in the minority.

The feeling of resistance must now spread to take on the right in Britain—including Tory Boris Johnson and Nigel Farage's Brexit Party

## What's your story?

Email with your ideas  
reports@socialistworker.co.uk

## Links with Tory hopefuls

DONALD TRUMP spoke to right wing Tory leadership hopeful Boris Johnson during his state visit.

It followed his endorsement of Johnson's candidacy in the Sun newspaper.

Trump phoned Johnson and offered to meet face to face, but Johnson had to go to a leadership hustings.

But the two reportedly had a "friendly and productive" 20-minute call.

To try and avoid accusations of just talking to his mates, Trump also offered to

hold a private meeting with Michael Gove, another Tory leadership candidate.

A "source" close to Gove said, "Mr Gove was asked by Mr Trump's team if he would be able to meet the president."

"He said yes. Nothing has been fixed yet."

Trump has repeatedly embarrassed Theresa May by talking up other Tories.

And he held no private meeting with her.

Trump had also said, before arriving in Britain, that he might meet racist Brexit Party leader Nigel Farage.

## 'We can make a difference'

LABOUR LEADER Jeremy Corbyn was cheered when he spoke to anti-Trump protesters in London on Tuesday.

"We are black, white, disabled, LGBT, part of the wonderful mosaic of diversity," he said.

"Islamophobia, antisemitism and all forms of racism divide."

"There is a refugee crisis. Can we stop treating people who escape oppression and poverty as enemies?"

"Never forget protest and

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn

activism eventually leads to change. Together we can make a big difference."

Sabby Dhalu from Stand Up To Racism said, "A year ago we saw the Free Tommy demonstration right here."

"That was backed and funded by the Republican right in the US."

"Trump is commander in chief of Islamophobia and racism."

Roger McKenzie from the Unison union urged the crowd to "stand up and fight" to defend the NHS from the threat of privatisation.

And Izzy, a student climate activist, added, "People are rising up to say enough is enough."

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IN THIS WEEK

# 1967

**Israeli state starts the Six Day War**

THE SIX Day War that started on 5 June 1967 began Israel's occupation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights.

Israel had already robbed the rest of the Palestinians' land when it was created in 1948.

Sending a message





# Trump has galvanised people to resist, say US activists

**UP TO 500 people formed an unwelcoming committee for US president Donald Trump in London on Monday, the first day of his state visit to Britain.**

Chants rang out across St James's Park and towards Buckingham Palace where Trump was dining with the scroungers of the royal family.

People joined the action for a wide range of reasons. For Janet it was as simple as being a voice of protest. "I just felt I needed to protest against this racist misogynist.

"I left work early and came straight here. I wouldn't be anywhere else."

People joined protests in other towns and cities across Britain on Monday evening, including 400 in Manchester, 300 in Bristol and 200 in Cambridge. More than 100 joined a protest in Liverpool.

Kathleen from Connecticut was one of many Americans who joined the protest in London. She said that anger towards Trump is widespread.

## Political

"Trump has provoked people in the US to take action who wouldn't necessarily normally call themselves political," she said.

And big protests against Trump can deepen the crisis for the Tories, who have welcomed him to Britain.

Julie Sherry from Stand Up To Racism said, "Trump has unified people against him.

"And now the Tories have associated themselves with the most hated man in the world."

Protester Maya pointed to foreign secretary Jeremy Hunt's cowardly attempts to distance himself from Trump with one hand while welcoming him with the other.

"It shows the Tories' desperation that they need to get the approval of someone they don't even like," she said.

People came from the US to

## BACK STORY

**Donald Trump's official state visit to Britain took place this week**

●He was wined and dined by the royals while ordinary people joined protests against him

●Trump used the visit to stress his support for racists Boris Johnson and Nigel Farage

●The cost of protecting Trump and his entourage is estimated to be more than £40 million

●Many Americans joined the protests because Trump is 'spreading hate through society'

the protest to add their voices to the anti-Trump chorus.

Christine from Boston argued that, while there are problems with the Democratic Party, Trump is much worse.

"Trump is spreading hate through society," she said.

"Children in classrooms are being called racial slurs.

"Boys think it's alright to be sexually harassing girls because they see that behaviour being normalised."

Kathleen said that it was important that people turn out to be "seen to be visibly rejecting him and all he represents".

There was a vocal and visible minority element of the protest that linked the fight against Trump to the campaign to remain in the EU.

But many others were more measured.

"Trump may be for Brexit, but I don't think that all those who voted for Brexit are racist," said Maya.

"It was the government that set the limits of the debate.

"And in the hands of the Tories, that was always going to be a poisonous contest.

"Things are bad and people were looking for a different way of doing things.

"That's what Brexit was about."

**THE QUEEN welcomed racist US president Donald Trump to Britain on Monday**

# Vicious US state is a threat to migrants' rights and the NHS

TRUMP IS throwing his weight behind the nastiest figures in mainstream British politics.

He has endorsed Boris Johnson's bid for the leadership of the Tory party.

Trump said Johnson has "been a friend of mine". "He's been very nice," he said. "I have a very good relationship with him."

And he reiterated his approval of Nigel Farage.

"I have a very good relationship with Nigel Farage," he said. "I may meet with him. We'll see what happens."

●While Trump is indulged on his right royal holiday, the US state's war on migrants steams ahead.

News broke over the weekend of appalling conditions in US immigration detention centres.

Inspections by the Department of Homeland Security's inspector general found shocking conditions at the El Paso Del Norte Processing Centre in Texas.

Some 900 migrants were crammed into the prison, designed to hold just 125 people. One cell



**PROTESTERS IN Liverpool on Monday**

PICTURE: KELLY STUBBS

with an intended capacity of 35 held 155 people.

Detainees were forced to endure "standing room only conditions" and in some cells people had to stand on toilets to be able to breathe properly.

A report released in May by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists found that the Immigration and Customs

Enforcement agency has been using

solitary confinement to punish migrants as a matter of routine.

●On Sunday the US ambassador to Britain Woody Johnson told the BBC, "I think the entire [British] economy, in a trade deal, all things that are traded would be on the table."

He made clear that this meant the NHS would be a part of any discussion about trade.

# Trade unions have a duty to fight against divisions

TRADE UNION leaders joined the action against Donald Trump.

Mark Serwotka, general secretary of the PCS union, spoke at the London protest against Trump on Tuesday.

He told the crowd, "Donald Trump is not welcome here in Britain.

"Trade unionists have a special duty to defend migrant workers and to fight tooth and nail against racism, division and xenophobia.

"Trump emboldens the far right."

And he made clear that one group of workers is not responsible for problems other workers face.

"It is not migrant workers and refugees from other countries that cause problems in Britain," said Serwotka.

"It is the financial elites, corporations and a rotten Tory administration.

"Only by combating fascists and racists in the workplace and on the streets will we be able to then build

a more equal society where everyone is welcome."

TUC general secretary Frances O'Grady called for public services to be protected in any future trade deal with the US.

She said, "With right wing Tories queuing up to become our next prime minister, we need to protect our public services from the threat of a dodgy trade deal with Trump's America.

"Big pharma corporations can't wait to get their greedy hands on our

NHS, and Trump will back these corporate vultures all the way.

"We must never accept a US-style system where ordinary people are cheated out of healthcare so that super-rich executives can rake in the billions."

She added, "We shouldn't roll out the red carpet for a man who deliberately spreads fear and prejudice, who tears families apart and locks children in cages.

"No matter our race, religion or background, we'll stand together as working people."

## Cops protect Trump

Whitehall and other parts of central London were locked down.

Plans for Trump's visit to Portsmouth on Wednesday involved marine units from

Hampshire police and armed Ministry of Defence police.

A security source said, "The cost of the state visit has ballooned to an estimate in excess of £40 million."

Trump's previous visit to Britain in July last year cost an estimated £18 million.

The last major state visit to Britain, by Chinese president Xi, took place in 2015 and cost around £1.1 million.

# Royals wine and dine racist

THE QUEEN gave Trump a specially-bound first edition of Winston Churchill's book The Second World War and an ElIR pen set.

His wife Melania got an engraved silver box.

A state banquet in

the Palace Ballroom on Monday night included £1,400 a bottle Chateau Lafite Rothschild 1990 wine.

It followed a lunch of salmon, duck and doughnuts earlier in the day.

Trump tweeted, "London part of trip is

going really well. The Queen and the entire Royal family have been fantastic.

"The relationship with the United Kingdom is very strong."

He went on to denounce any protests as "Fake news."

**Socialist Worker**  
WHAT WE THINK

# MAY LEAVES A BROKEN TORY PARTY IN HER WAKE

**T**HERESA MAY was to step down as Tory leader this week in a fitting manner—humiliated, derided and friendless.

Even Donald Trump weighed in to denounce her failures in negotiations with the European Union and to suggest that Nigel Farage would do a better job.

The Peterborough by-election, which happened after Socialist Worker went to press, was certain to see a collapse in the Tory vote.

Two years ago the Tories almost won the seat. It would be no surprise if this time they came fourth.

The result, announced on the day May goes, was expected to see a surge in the Brexit Party vote.

At the last general election the bulk of the millions across Britain who had voted for the racist Ukip party in 2015 returned to vote for the Tories.

Now the flow is the other way. Many people who previously had almost instinctively voted for the Tories are abandoning them for Farage.

If recent analysis is correct, the next Tory leader will be chosen by people who mostly didn't vote Tory at the European elections.

Brexit Party voters are going to choose the prime minister.

That's another reason to fight for a general election.

Nobody should underestimate the scale of the Tory crisis. There were three recent opinion polls for a general election.

Each had a different party in the lead—but none of them put the Tories first.

And the Tories' leadership election, soon beginning, formally underscores the chaos and lack of direction.

On Tuesday there were 17 possible candidates to be leader, although "only" 12 had the nominations required to enter the contest. They will slug it

**“At the moment it's the racist right who gain—it's urgent to take them on**

# A BAN TO BEAT BIGOTRY?

**T**HE THREAT to LGBT+ education is growing as bigots pledged to press ahead with protests outside a school in Birmingham. A group has made clear it would continue its campaign against relationship and sex education (RSE) after the High Court granted Birmingham City Council an injunction.

The injunction restricts political agitation in the streets surrounding Anderton Park Primary School, which has been targeted by homophobic protests.

The mainly Muslim parents were planning a protest outside the injunction area on Friday—and to challenge the injunction in the High Court next Monday.

Defendant Amir Ahmed has led protests that forced Parkfield Community to drop its No Outsiders lessons.

He had tried to obscure what the protests were about.

Ahmed initially talked about the Islamophobic "Prevent" programme, which is embedded throughout teaching in schools.

But he made clear the real issue was that, "We do not accept homosexuality as a valid sexual relationship to have."

Many LGBT+ activists have understandably welcomed the injunction. But court action isn't the way to stop the campaign.

Indeed it may make matters worse—and could be used against other protests.

All schools should teach LGBT+ inclusive RSE—whether parents like it or not—and securing that will take a grassroots fight.

The latest issue of Socialist Review is out now

# ONE MORE TORY DOWN

SALLY CAMPBELL ON THE AFTERMATH OF THE EURO ELECTIONS

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## ANALYSIS

ALEX CALLINICOS



## Why Boris Johnson won't end Tory woes

**THE FACT that Donald Trump has endorsed Boris Johnson for the Tory leadership, telling the Sun newspaper "he would be excellent", is no surprise.**

While running for president, Trump welcomed the Brexit referendum of June 2016.

Nigel Farage visited Trump in New York soon after he had won the presidency the same November. And Trump has actively promoted an axis of far right governments in Europe headed by the likes of Matteo Salvini in Italy, and Viktor Orban in Hungary.

The more interesting question is what's in it for Johnson. He's now the favourite to win the leadership election. The Tory rank and file expect him to deliver a clear break with the European Union (EU), probably leaving without a deal.

If that's how he hopes to win, then he's logically committed to drawing much closer to the United States. Since Britain joined the European Economic Community in 1973, its role has been to be the closest ally of the US in Brussels. This gave rise to conflicts, notably when France and Germany opposed the invasion of Iraq in 2003, but on the whole it has served British capitalism well.

But the referendum made this orientation impossible.

Theresa May spent two years pandering to Tory Brexiteers on the back benches. She then realised last summer that big business wants Britain to retain as much as possible of the substance of the relationship it has with the EU as a member state after Brexit.

This destroyed May's premiership.

The deal she got from the remaining EU-27 represented too little of that substance for business, especially the City—but much too much for the likes of Jacob Rees-Mogg.

It was in July last year Johnson resigned from her cabinet in protest against May's reorientation.

According to Financial Times columnist Gideon Rachman, "The Johnson analysis (if that is not too grand a word) is that Mrs May failed to grasp the implications of Brexit and the election of Mr Trump. She was too conciliatory with the EU. And on the big international issues—from Iran to climate change to trade—Mrs May also took positions that were closer to Brussels than to Washington.

### Crockery-smashing

"Mr Johnson has suggested that Mr Trump's crockery-smashing diplomacy would be a better model for Britain in dealing with the EU. In compensation for an economic rupture with Europe, he would seek a rapid trade deal with the Trump administration."

He hasn't much choice. The European elections took place in Britain as part of May's efforts to buy time for a compromise deal. But they have made such a deal much harder to achieve because it was the opponents of compromise—Farage, and the Liberal Democrats who want to reverse Brexit—who did best.

If Johnson becomes prime minister, his attempt to renegotiate May's withdrawal agreement will be rebuffed by Brussels. Unless the EU allows another postponement of Brexit, Britain will crash out of the EU on Halloween.

No one knows how much this will disrupt air traffic, cross-Channel supply chains, and financial markets, but there certainly will be some disruption.

Relations between a Britain headed by Johnson and the EU—never likely to be cordial since he is despised in Continental capitals—would sink even lower.

The collapse of a main pillar of British strategy since the 1960s would push Johnson to cosy up to the US, embracing ultra-neoliberal policies to ingratiate himself with Trump.

But this would leave him in a pretty bad place. According to EU chief negotiator Michel Barnier, who may become the next president of the European Commission, Brussels would insist on all the most controversial elements of the withdrawal agreement when discussing a future relationship with Britain. And the US would take advantage of Britain's weakness when negotiating a future trade deal, however much Johnson fawned on Trump.

Interestingly Rachman concludes that "the Johnson project is so filled with dangers that it could easily collapse fairly quickly. That development would play into the hands of Mr Corbyn, ahead of a general election." Power could fade in Johnson's hands almost as soon as he grasps it.



JEREMY CORBYN and Angela Rayner (below) speaking to supporters in Leeds last Saturday

PICTURES: NEIL TERRY

# Labour Roots in Leeds kicks off with debates over Brexit

by CHARLIE KIMBER

**THE FIRST of a series of Labour Roots events, held in Leeds on Saturday, showed the continuing support for Jeremy Corbyn.**

But activists also spoke to Socialist Worker about their concerns for the future.

Labour Roots says it is "a rolling series of open events bringing together activists and the public with Jeremy Corbyn and members of the shadow cabinet".

Three sessions in the afternoon on anti-racism, climate change and public services saw 400 people in total listen to some of Labour's leaders and take part in discussions. And in the evening around 600 joined a rally with speeches and music.

There was enthusiastic backing for Corbyn's call for a general election, his denunciations of the Tories and his anti-austerity message.

### Popular

He was most popular when he denounced "the very rich, those who don't pay their taxes, those who hide their money in tax havens".

But the atmosphere was different to Corbyn's triumphal rallies during the 2017 general election. And it's not hard to see why.

In 2017 there was a feeling of surging forward. Today,

despite the shambles of a Tory government, a Labour victory seems far from guaranteed. Yet there was little discussion of it.

In the recent European elections across Yorkshire and the Humber region, Labour came second and was almost beaten by the Liberal Democrats.

In the Leeds local authority area Labour won 36,000 votes, the Brexit Party took 53,000.

Some Labour members think Labour must adopt the demand for a second



referendum and oppose Brexit.

Matt from Chapeltown in Leeds told Socialist Worker, "We should stop trying to balance between Leave and Remain and come out clearly and say Brexit is a disaster that has unleashed all the worst aspects of society."

"Lots of Labour members in my area think this."

### Vote

But Anne from Guiseley disagreed. She told Socialist Worker, "I don't like it when Tom Watson and others just announce that we need a people's vote."

"Leave voters weren't all stupid racists. Why should we insult and abandon them?"

"I think Corbyn's right when he says we need to bring people together and that other issues matter more than Brexit."

The problem is that Labour seems paralysed and is not mobilising.

There is no concerted attempt to put people on the streets against austerity, job losses, climate chaos and racism.

There's no demonstration for a general election. There was no call on Saturday to join protests against Donald Trump.

These kind of mobilisations would make a huge difference. And without action, the divide over Brexit won't go away.

## Take on far right racists

**SHADOW home secretary Diane Abbott spoke about the importance of fighting the far right.**

"They breed division, fear and anger," she said. "They pull communities apart."

**"And the Labour Party's mission is to bring communities together."**

**And at both the anti-racism session and at the rally in the evening Abbott said**

**that everyone "including those who ought to know better" should stop claiming that immigrants lower wages. She added, "It's not immigrants, it's predatory employers and weakened trade unions that lower wages."**

**Abbott praised campaigners "including Stand Up To Racism" for the defeat of Tommy Robinson in the European elections.**



# Tory health cuts caused thousands more deaths

Research out this week is another damning indictment of how austerity measures have cut short the lives of thousands of poor people in Britain

**TORY AUSTERITY is responsible for more than 130,000 deaths in the last seven years, according to new research out this week.**

Those deaths could have been prevented if Tory governments had not slashed the public health budget.

Public health policy aims to prevent illnesses such as heart disease, lung cancer or liver disease by targeting poor diets, smoking or other harmful habits.

These particularly affect many working class and poor people whose lives are shaped by poverty.

Dean Hochlaf is a lead researcher for the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) think tank which conducted the study.

He said, "We have seen progress in reducing preventable diseases flatline since 2012.

"At the same time, local authorities have seen significant cuts to their public health budgets, which has severely impacted the capacity of preventative services.

"Social conditions for many have failed to improve since the economic crisis, creating a perfect storm that encourages harmful health behaviours.

"This health challenge will only continue to worsen."

Tory health secretary Matt Hancock claimed that the government would focus on prevention last November.

This was part of an attempt supposedly to reduce pressure on the health service without dealing with the cuts, privatisation, poor pay and rocketing workloads driving the NHS crisis.

## Penalising

But the Tory approach to public health is underpinned by penalising working class people for making "lifestyle choices".

At the time their policies drive down living standards and cut the public services that could help people to live longer.

For instance, the research said that funding for physical education—supposedly coming from the "sugar tax" on soft drinks—"was reduced in 2017 from £415 million to £100 million".

That's because the sugar tax money went to "to part fund an increase in the core school budget" which has been hit by other Tory cuts. The IPPR found that an "estimated two in five of health visitors reported caseloads in excess of 400 children".

That's well above the recommended level of 250 per visitor needed to deliver a safe service.



TORY AUSTERITY kills

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

Growing inequality underpins the health crisis.

It's no coincidence that life expectancy is falling in more deprived areas of England, as shown by Office for National Statistics figures from March,

Women in the most deprived areas can expect to live for 79 years while women in the least deprived areas for 86 years. Men in poorer areas can expect to live for 74 years compared to 83 years in affluent ones.

There has to be a bigger fight-back to get rid of the Tory regime of austerity so that working class people can lead healthier, longer lives.



**On other pages...**

Equal pay victory in Glasgow shows power of workers >>Page 17

## Britain runs top tax havens

**BRITAIN WITH its "corporate tax haven network" is "by far the world's greatest enabler" of corporate tax avoidance, research has claimed.**

British territories and dependencies made up four of the top ten countries that have done the most to "proliferate corporate tax avoidance" on the Corporate Tax Haven Index.

Britain itself is ranked 13th on the list, which was published by the Tax Justice Network on Tuesday of last week.

The index scores each country's system based

on the ease with which bosses can avoid paying the tax that they owe.

Topping the list was the British Virgin Islands, followed by Bermuda and the Cayman Islands—all British overseas territories.

The network said that through its network of satellite jurisdictions, Britain bears the lion's share of responsibility for the "breakdown of the global corporate tax system".

It added that Britain accounts for "over a third of the world's corporate tax avoidance risks".

## Grenfell

### Council lied about safety spending

AT LEAST 72 people died because the refurbishment of Grenfell Tower was done on the cheap.

Kensington and Chelsea council previously said it could only use money raised through council rents for the refurbishment of the tower.

The Tory-run council claimed this meant it couldn't afford the extra £300,000 it would have cost to put non-flammable cladding on the building.

But a new report from the Bureau of Investigative Journalists exposes this as a lie.

The council partially funded the refurbishment of the block by selling basement flats in the borough's Elm Park Gardens.

That means the council could equally have used some of the £129 million it raised from selling council property in the years leading up to the atrocity.

Yet instead of using the



Burned cladding on Grenfell Tower

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

money to make people safe, the council spent over £60 million buying up properties for development.

Labour MP David Lammy said, "These revelations show how Kensington and Chelsea council treated those living in Grenfell Tower with a combination of disdain and indifference in the years running up to the fire, despite repeated safety warnings and complaints from residents."

The preferred contractor for the refurbishment, Leadbitter, submitted an estimate cost of £11.3 million for the refurbishment.

This was £1.6 million more than the Kensington and Chelsea Tenant Management Organisation's estimate.

Because of this, the contract was put out for bids, and was awarded to construction firm Rydon. This involving a total of 383 firms in the refurbishment according to the police investigation into the fire.

Ordinary people paid with their lives in this race to the bottom.

Join the Silent Walk for Grenfell on 14 June [bit.ly/Grenfell2years](http://bit.ly/Grenfell2years)  
Join the Solidarity March on 15 June [bit.ly/GrenfellJune](http://bit.ly/GrenfellJune)



# Rows on the Israeli right force fresh elections

Failure to form a government is good for parties that want to take Israel further to the right, says Nick Clark

**ISRAEL IS heading for its second general election in five months after its right wing prime minister Binyamin Netanyahu failed to form a government.**

The move to new elections is a setback for a US-backed “peace deal” that threatens to entrench the military occupation of Palestine.

But it is also a victory for forces that want to drag Israeli politics even further to the right.

Netanyahu has pushed the Israeli parliament—the Knesset—to call an election for 17 September.

His racist, warmongering Likud party already won a general election in April this year. But a rival even further to Netanyahu’s right scuppered his plan to cobble together a coalition government of right wing parties.

Former Israeli defence minister and leader of the nationalist Yisrael Beiteinu party Avigdor Lieberman refused to join Netanyahu’s government.

He resigned from the previous government last year, demanding the continuation of a round of bombing against the Gaza Strip.

## Military

Lieberman said he wouldn’t join the new government unless it pushed a law to conscript more ultra-orthodox Jews into Israel’s military. That demand was seen as unacceptable to the religious parties that Netanyahu also relies on.

Israeli media commentators speculated that Lieberman is grandstanding, either to appeal to his secular nationalist supporters or to hurt Netanyahu.

In either case the debacle illustrates the dominance of the right in Israeli politics, defined by the occupation of Palestine and military support for US power in the Middle East.

Yet it is also a blow to plans by US president Donald Trump.

He wants to push through a deal—which he calls “the deal of the century”—that he hopes will get rid of the problem of the Palestinians.

## BACK STORY

**Israeli prime minister Binyamin Netanyahu has called a fresh election for 17 September**

● Netanyahu’s racist Likud party came first in a general election in April

● He won after promising to annex Israeli settlements in the Palestinian West Bank

● He hoped to form a government with other right wing parties

● But now his plans have been scuppered by a right wing rival

But he needs Netanyahu to form a government before it can be announced.

Leaked details suggest the deal will hand even more Palestinian land over to Israel.

And last week Trump’s son in law Jared Kushner—responsible for the plan—suggested Israel would keep its army on remaining Palestinian land, and that Palestinians could not govern themselves.

Trump said news of the new Israeli election was “all messed up” adding, “They should get their act together.”

He hopes that once his plan goes through he can unite Israel and Arab countries against the US’s rival Iran, which he is threatening war against.

But many right wing politicians in Israel are against any sort of deal with the Palestinians whatsoever—and want all of Palestinian land for Israel.

Right wing Israelis—backed up by Israeli police—invaded the Palestinian Al-Aqsa mosque in East Jerusalem last week.

They want to end Palestinian control of the mosque and push Palestinians out of East Jerusalem.

Ordinary Palestinians heroically fought back.

The threat of Palestinian resistance is the biggest threat to both the Israeli right, and Trump’s war-mongering plan for the Middle East.

## Brazil

**HUGE PROTESTS** have gripped cities and university campuses across Brazil including Brasilia (above)

# Students take on far right president

by ALISTAIR FARROW

**STUDENTS AND workers took to the streets across Brazil last week in the latest series of protests against Jair Bolsonaro’s attempts to slash education funding.**

Protesters burned effigies of the far right president.

The protests spread beyond the biggest cities to places such as Salvador in north east Brazil where 70,000 people came onto the streets.

Over a million people took part in mobilisations last month.

Student Kaio Duarte said, “I’m here for those who are poor and deserve the right to

quality public education. I’m worried that the next generation won’t have all of the rights to education that I have had.”

Education minister Abraham Weintraub last month announced a 30 percent cut to higher education budgets.

The student protests are the latest crisis for Bolsonaro’s increasingly unstable regime.

After his election last October, just 17 percent of Brazilians considered his government bad or awful. Now the figure stands at 36 percent.

Bolsonaro is likely to face further protests as he seeks to push through a massive attack on pension rights in the next few weeks.

Far right president Jair Bolsonaro

# Algerian state cracks down on movement

THE ALGERIAN state is stepping up its repression of protesters in an effort to quash the mass movement demanding real change.

Cops arrested at least 50 people in the capital Algiers on Friday of last week.

Yet big protests were reported in Algiers and other major cities such as Oran and Constantine.

They came after

the regime announced it could postpone elections beyond the 4 July deadline it had previously announced.

The constitutional council said the interim president Abdelkader Bensalah must announce another date.

One demand of protesters had been for elections free from the influence of the military.

Only two people have put their names forward

for the position of president so far.

Last Friday people chanted, “No elections with this gang in power.”

Yet the decision to postpone elections could be a further manoeuvre from a regime desperate to demobilise the movement.

The regime will not back down and hold free elections without an escalation in the protest and strike movement.

Algeria’s interim president Abdelkader Bensalah



## Principles for a real democracy

TO OUTFLANK and undermine the likes of Nigel Farage, Socialist Worker should emphasise a distinct, detailed and determined definition of democracy.

All positions of power should be elected to widen reach, and elected positions should be subject to recall to retain ordinary people's initiative.

Those in elected positions should be paid an average wage to guard against greed and bureaucracy. They should be rotated—because, as the revolutionary Lenin said, “Every cook can govern the state.”

And this should happen at least annually.

This would qualitatively more advanced than the current set up, where you get to vote maybe 12 times in your lifetime.

**Nigel Coward**  
West London

## Good to see Campbell go

ALL SORTS of Blairites are demanding that Alastair Campbell is reinstated to the Labour Party.

As Tony Blair's right hand man, he “sexed up” the dossier that led to the invasion of Iraq in 2003.

One million people were murdered in the US and Britain's war.

Why wasn't Campbell expelled over the Iraq war, rather than for voting for a party that voted against the invasion?

**Nina Fenwick**  
Malvern

## Tories haven't dropped migrant charges in NHS

RIGHT WING newspapers are claiming that the Tories have been forced to drop migrant charges in the NHS.

The Home Office and the NHS did drop the “memorandum of understanding”, which allowed data sharing between the two organisations.

The Home Office is still trying to find new ways around it. Some hospitals are still asking the Home



ILLUSTRATION: TIM SANDERS

# State wants to take revenge against Extinction Rebellion

THE POLICE are pushing to charge over 1,100 people who were arrested on the Extinction Rebellion's (XR) International Rebellion in London in April.

They want their revenge and to drag people through courts on a nothing charge.

The sheer number of people who came out and our non-violent tactics meant the police hierarchy became embarrassed.

The International Rebellion lasted so long because ordinary Londoners got involved. It lasted for 10 days at sites in central London. And by the end of it, the government had to declare a climate emergency.

I was one of those arrested during the International Rebellion.

The police became rougher and nastier as it went on. And near the end, people were being grabbed and dragged rather than being taken away in a calmer manner.

It was quite clear when the order came to clear us that the nicely, nicely stuff was ending.

When we had non-violent direct action training, XR was honest about what would happen if people got arrested. We were expecting much worse than we got, and that expectation now looks like it's going to be realised.

The honeymoon period is at an end and the state is going to remove the kid gloves.

You could feel that with the Greenpeace protests at the BP offices—the police came to

close it down almost immediately. And you could see that with the cops starting to get a bit rough with the school climate strikers last month.

As the attitude of police hardens, it can only begin to harden the attitude of protesters—and the school students are the sharpest.

One of them at our meetings said why they hate the police—and others nodded to it.

We have no regrets.

There are arrest support groups and I'm sure they will be putting up a common defence. Trade unionists should show solidarity and help to raise money for any fines.

**Simon Assaf**  
East London

## Government must pay for sanctions

TORY minister Amber Rudd announced recently that three year sanctions for benefit claimants would be stopped.

On the same day the Labour Party released figures showing that 32,647 three-year sanctions have been issued since 2012. And 20,000 of them were issued to Universal

Office to verify if patients are eligible for some care.

They say this is to make sure they don't charge people who are entitled to free care.

But it could still be about flagging up someone to immigration authorities.

It creates a climate of fear where migrants don't feel able to go to hospital and helps the Tories' “hostile environment”.

**Jackie Applebee**  
East London

### A protest over Universal Credit

Credit claimants. As socialists, we should call for an immediate scrapping of Universal Credit and all benefit sanctions.

And, as part of that campaign, we should

demand that the Tories are held to account for the tens of thousands of deaths caused by their sanctions regime.

**Sean McDermott**  
Glasgow

Just a thought...

## Where now for Tories?

WHOEVER replaces Theresa May as prime minister will face the same parliamentary arithmetic as she did when they try to get the European Union Withdrawal Bill passed.

And they will also need a mandate from the public.

So a general election will have to take place soon.

**Brian Eggleston**  
On Facebook

■ OR THE Tories will just let the clock run down and let Britain crash out of the European Union with no deal.

I've got a feeling that that's what some of them have been wanting all along.

**Rai Grant**  
On Facebook

## Let's bring on the election

THERESA MAY bought it all on herself.

Bring on the general election at the end of summer and let's vote in a Labour government led by the Jeremy Corbyn.

They are the only party who can sort out Britain's social problems and get us back on our feet.

**Paul Harris**  
On Facebook

## Good to see proud Muslims

AS A lesbian Muslim, you've no idea how much it means to see LGBT+ Muslims leading the Pride march in Birmingham for the first time ever last week.

@Allwediscry  
On Twitter

## Don't leave out Greens

SOCIALIST Worker suggests that the Green New Deal (GND) was inspired by action in the US (Socialist Worker, 22 May).

It's important to include that a GND was developed in Britain in 2007 by Green Party MP Caroline Lucas, the New Economics Foundation and others.

It developed into the One Million Climate Jobs campaign, with the support of a number of unions.

You can see details at [greennewdealgroupp.org](http://greennewdealgroupp.org)  
**Chris Hart**  
Lancaster



# EUROPE

## AND THE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE RIGHT

Socialists from across Europe explain why the right is making gains—and spell out the tasks for the left

**T**HE ADVANCE of far right forces in the recent European elections shows what can happen when our rulers push racism.

A decade ago crisis ripped through global capitalism. Europe's leaders responded by scapegoating migrants and minorities to displace people's anger.

The elections reflect the results of that toxic process.

In Hungary prime minister Viktor Orban's Fidesz party won over half the votes. The party, which believes in a world Jewish

conspiracy, got over 40 percent of the vote in all districts.

Orban finds a solid base of support among the middle class, which was hit hard by the financial crisis.

His campaigns blame Jewish billionaire George Soros and refugees for undermining the Hungarian state.

In Austria the Nazi FPÖ—which until recently was in coalition with the Tories—held onto third place.

Its vote dropped by just 2.5 percent despite its then leader, Heinz Christian Strache, being at the centre of a corruption scandal.

Elsewhere the crisis of the neoliberal “centre” ground has seen support for traditional Tory and social democratic parties collapse.

In some countries, this process has seen the rise of new centrist parties that hope to mount a defence of neoliberalism.

In other places the far right has benefited.

Driving back the far right requires mass opposition on the streets and taking on the state-sponsored racism that fuels it.

But it also requires fighting for a radical alternative, not propping up the crisis-ridden status quo.

## ‘We see frightening figures—but it’s important to challenge the racists’

Christine Buchholz, Germany

THE FAR right Alternative for Germany (AfD) grew at the European elections, but it failed to meet its target.

It had a strong response in eastern German states. It became the strongest party in Saxony and Brandenburg, which is really scary because in these states we have local elections in the autumn.

AfD could build a regional coalition government.

We have other results which show it's possible to change the situation.

In the city of Bremen we had a regional election.

The AfD was pushed back to 7 percent, which is still too much, but we can see that it is possible to stop its growth.

Last year in the city of Chemnitz, Nazis and racists hunted migrants through the city.

The AfD went up to 18 percent in the polls. We then had a wave of demonstrations against racism. This started to change the situation

gradually.

So, the AfD was the biggest party in the elections in Chemnitz, but it wanted to win by much more.

The city of Erfurt, the capital of Thuringia in eastern Germany, is the stronghold of the hard right of the AfD.

It called a march, but was not able to get more than 300 to 400 people in the streets.

We had a huge counter-mobilisation and had 7,000 in the streets and 15,000 at an anti-racist festival.

It was so important to show there is a mood in society against this racist and fascist force.

We see these frightening figures—but it's important to see that we can challenge the racists.

We can organise internationally, challenge the racist threat and push it back.

**Christine Buchholz**  
Aufstehen Gegen Rassismus (Stand Against Racism)

REGIONAL ELECTIONS in Greece, which ran alongside the European elections, last week brought a hard defeat to government party Syriza and its leader Alexis Tsipras.

The distance between it and the Tory party New Democracy reached close to ten points. Now Tsipras has announced snap parliamentary elections.

The once-radical left Syriza party ends its term in government by surrendering power to New Democracy. The blame for this is undoubtedly its disastrous adaptation to the ruling class and the needs of Greek capitalism.

Syriza has demonstrated the tragedy of the reformist left's attempts to manage the inhuman mechanisms of the economy of profit and the state that supports it.

This miserable system is in a deep crisis. But it is not inevitable that the left will gain.

Antarsya, which includes the Socialist Workers Party, has to draw valuable conclusions from these experiences.

It has also fallen from what it achieved in 2014.

It is urgent that Antarsya emerges as a force that drives forward joint action and shows in practice the value of the revolutionary strategy.

We have before us struggles against redundancies, cuts and privatisations.

We have to continue and step up the fight against racism and the fascist threat. The fall of the Nazi Golden Dawn from third to fifth place is a fruit of the struggles of the anti-fascist movement.

The anti-fascist Keerfa organisation has contributed to this. We shouldn't leave any room for new fascists to organise in the wake of Golden Dawn's failure.

**Socialist Workers Party, Greece**

A Golden Dawn Nazi under arrest

The Greek Communist Party failed to gain from those that turned their back on Tsipras. It never sought joint action with the people who have fallen to the left from Syriza.

Popular Unity—a left split from Syriza—was at levels below 1 percent. The break with Syriza in 2015 never ended in a break with the reformist strategy.

The anti-capitalist left,

‘Threat from Italian far right’

THERE WAS nothing much to celebrate as far as Italy was concerned last week.

The exception was that Steve Bannon was blocked from setting up The Academy for the Judeo-Christian West in Italy for the far right across Europe.

This is an important year. It should have been an opportunity to mark and learn from the centenary of the birth of fascism in Italy on 23 March 1919.

Instead we have Matteo Salvini of the League party.

Why? When Silvio Berlusconi came to govern in 1994 he brought the fascists, the far right and the racists into government.

This included the racists of what is now the League party of interior minister Salvini. You had the gradual acceptance of racism and fascism in Italian political life.

Salvini doubled his vote in the recent elections from 17 percent to 34 percent.

In one hand Salvini is brandishing an automatic weapon. And in the other

## ‘Threat from Italian far right’

he's brandishing religion—the crucifix.

Recently when he met Marine Le Pen in Milan he mentioned six saints and Madonna as supervising his coming to power.

Salvini had a photograph taken recently so you could see what was behind him on the shelf. He had two photographs of Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump.

We have to build European resistance against fascism.

**Alfio Bernabei**, a member of ANPI—the National Association of Italian Partisans

## ‘Le Pen was boosted by the argument that only she could stop Macron’

Angelique Caillaud, France

THE FAR right National Rally (RN) of Marine Le Pen came top, ahead of president Emmanuel Macron's list. That will give new strength to her movement. It will strengthen all the most rotten elements in our politics.

Overall the RN had 23.5 percent. Detailed polls show its typical voter was male, 35-60 years old and, worryingly, a manual worker or unemployed. One survey has the RN taking 40 percent of the manual worker vote.

Macron is widely hated. His whole campaign was based on defending the EU.

The RN list was headed by Jordan Bardella, a 23-year-old. It's part of an attempt to say it has broken from its fascist past.

But what really boosted the RN was the argument that they were the only force that could beat Macron.

I know even members of my family, good left wingers, who considered voting RN just to knock down Macron. They didn't but I am

sure this factor was very important.

It's also why some who had been involved in the Yellow Vests voted RN. But many of the Yellow Vests I know didn't vote.

The Greens did very well, a new development in France that reflects the big movement we have seen of demonstrations and student action over the climate.

They got 13.5 percent, well above what polls had indicated.

That's a good thing but it also underlines the big space that exists where there ought to be a powerful left.

Both the Socialist Party and Jean-Luc Melenchon's party each scored 6 percent and the far left less than 1 percent.

We need to work out how to relate to the Yellow Vests, strikers, climate activists. There's struggle but the left isn't capturing it.

And we desperately need a movement against the RN.

**Angelique Caillaud**  
Health worker, Paris

LE PEN hopes her strong showing in the Euro elections will launch her to president

## ‘The ruling party marched with fascists last November’

Andy Zebrowski, Poland

THE RULING Law and Justice (PiS) party had a big success in the European parliamentary elections.

The right wing party won 45 percent of the vote, taking 27 out of 52 MEP seats.

This result is record-breaking for any political party in any national parliamentary, local or European elections in Poland.

The party has pushed filth against migrants, refugees, Muslims and Jewish people and marched alongside the fascists in Warsaw last November.

Its election campaign was marked by continual outbreaks of racism and homophobia.

Jaroslaw Kaczynski, the Law and Justice leader, said that LGBT+ rights and gender theory were an “existential threat” to Polish values.

“These ideologies, philosophies are a threat to Polish identity, to our nation, to its existence and thus to the Polish state,” he said in the run-up to the election.

And Kaczynski accused the opposition of pushing the “sexualisation” of children and young people.

The government added a cash bonus for pensioners and extended child support just before the elections to boost its support.

The main opposition group, the centrist European Coalition, took 38 percent of the vote.

The parties within the coalition range from the neoliberal Civil Platform, the conservative Polish People's Party, to the Blairite SLD and the Green Party.

Spring, a new liberal left party led by LGBT+ politician Robert Biedron, won 6 percent of the vote.

The good news is that the Confederation group, made up of fascist, far right and racist parties, did not win any seats. But it still managed to win 4.6 percent—with over 600,000 votes.

**Andy Zebrowski**  
Workers' Democracy, Warsaw



## WHAT WE STAND FOR

**These are the core politics of the Socialist Workers Party.**

### INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

Under capitalism workers' labour creates all profit. A socialist society can only be constructed when the working class seizes control of the means of production and democratically plans how they are used.

### REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be patched up or reformed as the established Labour and trade union leaders say.

It has to be overthrown. Capitalism systematically degrades the natural world. Ending environmental crisis means creating a new society.

### THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia.

At most parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system.

Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

### INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a worldwide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

In Russia the result was state capitalism, not socialism. In Eastern Europe and China a similar system was later established by Stalinist parties. We support the struggle of workers in these countries against both private and state capitalism.

We are for real social, economic and political equality of women. We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

We defend the right of believers to practise their religion without state interference.

### THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests. We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

To join us, turn to page 16 or go to [www.swp.org.uk](http://www.swp.org.uk) or phone 020 7840 5602 for more information

## { SOCIALIST WORKER } PUBLIC MEETINGS

### BLACK COUNTRY

**Angela Davis—women, race and class**

Wed 19 Jun, 7.30pm,  
St. Peter's Café,  
4 Exchange St,  
Wolverhampton,  
WV1 1TS

### BURNLEY AND PENDLE

**System change not climate change**

Wed 12 Jun, 7.30pm,  
The Library Building,  
Colne Rd,  
BB10 1LL

### LONDON:NORTH

**System change not climate change**

Thu 13 Jun, 7.45pm,  
St John Vianney Church Hall,  
4 Vincent Rd,  
West Green, N15 3QH

## { SOCIALIST WORKER } BRANCH MEETINGS

Weekly meetings to discuss political issues and our local interventions. All welcome.

### ABERDEEN

**How can we build a sustainable socialist society?**

Mon 10 Jun, 6pm,  
The Snug,  
Ma Cameron's,  
6-8 Little Belmont St,  
AB10 1JG

### CAMBRIDGE

**System change not climate change**

Thu 13 Jun, 7.30pm,  
River Lane Centre,  
River Ln, CB5 8HP

### CARDIFF

**The revolutionary ideas of Karl Marx**

Wed 12 Jun, 7.30pm,  
Cathays Community Centre,  
Cathays Terrace, CF24 4HX

### CHESTERFIELD

**Migration and climate change**

Thu 13 Jun, 7pm,  
Chesterfield Library,  
New Beetwell St, S40 1QN

### COVENTRY

**Is human nature a barrier to socialism?**

Wed 12 Jun, 7.30pm,  
The Golden Cross,  
8 Hay Ln, CV1 5RF

### DERBY

**Sudan and Algeria—resistance, revolt and revolution**

Thu 13 Jun, 7pm,  
West End Community Centre,  
Mackworth Rd (next to  
Britannia Mill), DE22 3BL

### DUNDEE

**Can the Green New Deal stop climate change?**

Wed 12 Jun, 7.30pm,  
Dundee Voluntary Action,  
10 Constitution Rd, DD1 1LL



THERE IS huge resistance to Trump

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

Trump, environmental crisis and the growth of the far right...

## What's the socialist alternative?

### BARNSELY

Thu 13 Jun, 7pm,  
Room 302, The Civic,  
Hanson St,  
S70 2HZ

### BRADFORD

Thu 20 Jun, 7pm,  
Glyde House,  
Little Horton Ln  
(opposite the ice rink),  
BD5 0BQ

### BRIGHTON & HOVE

Thu 13 Jun, 7.30pm,  
Friends Meeting House,  
Ship St,  
BN1 1AF

### EDINBURGH

**After the Euro elections—Tory crisis and the struggle against racism**

Wed 12 Jun, 7.30pm,  
Friends Meeting House,  
7 Victoria St,  
EH1 2JL

### GLASGOW

**After Alabama—how do we defend a woman's right to choose?**

Thu 13 Jun, 7pm,  
Avant Garde,  
33-44 King St,  
Merchant City,  
G1 5QT

### HARLOW

**After the Euro elections—Tory crisis and the struggle against racism**

Thu 13 Jun, 7.30pm,  
Friends Meeting House,  
1 Church Leys,  
Harlow,  
CM18 6BX

### LANCASTER AND MORECAMBE

**Irish civil rights 50 years on—how has Ireland changed?**

Thu 13 Jun, 7pm,  
Friends Meeting House,  
Meeting House Ln,  
LA1 1TX

### LEEDS: CITY CENTRE

**Is human nature a barrier to socialism?**

Thu 13 Jun, 7pm,  
The Swarthmore  
Education Centre,  
2-7 Woodhouse Sq,  
LS3 1AD

### LONDON: HACKNEY

**After Alabama—how do we defend a woman's right to choose?**

Thu 13 Jun, 7.30pm,  
The Round Chapel,  
2 Powerscroft Rd (corner  
Lower Clapton Rd),  
E5 0PU

### LONDON: NEWHAM

**Sex and sexuality in the era of Love Island**

Wed 19 Jun, 7pm,  
Stratford Advice Arcade,  
107-109 The Grove (next  
to Morrisons car park),  
E15 1HP

### LONDON: SOUTH

**Sex and Sexuality in the era of Love Island**

Wed 12 Jun, 7pm,  
Vida Walsh Centre,  
2b Saltoun Rd (near Effra  
Rd, facing Windrush Sq),  
Brixton,  
SW2 1EP

### LONDON: WALTHAM FOREST

**A Marxist History of the Labour Party**

Wed 12 Jun, 7.30pm,  
William Morris  
Community Centre,  
6-8 Greenleaf Rd,  
Walthamstow, E17 6QQ

### NORWICH

**From Orgreave to Hillsborough—why are there police cover-ups?**

Wed 12 Jun, 7.30pm,  
Vauxhall Centre,  
Johnson Pl,  
NR2 2SA

### NOTTINGHAM

**Migration and climate change**

Wed 26 Jun, 7pm,  
International  
Community Centre,  
61b Mansfield Rd,  
NG1 3FN

### OXFORD

**China in revolt—30 years since Tiananmen Square**

Wed 12 Jun, 7.30pm,  
Restore Building,  
Manzil Way,  
OX4 1YH

### PORTSMOUTH

**Trump and imperialism—could he start a war with Iran?**

Wed 12 Jun, 7.30pm,  
Somerstown  
Community Centre,  
River's St, PO5 4EZ

### SHEFFIELD: CITY CENTRE

**The Nakba to the Great March of Return—how can Palestine be free?**

Thu 13 Jun, 7pm,  
Central United  
Reformed Church,  
60 Norfolk St (near  
Crucible Theatre),  
S1 2JB

### WIGAN

**Migration and climate change**

Thu 13 Jun, 7pm,  
The Brocket Arms,  
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## { MOVEMENT EVENTS }

### NATIONAL

**Marxism Festival 2019**

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End Campus, E1 4NS  
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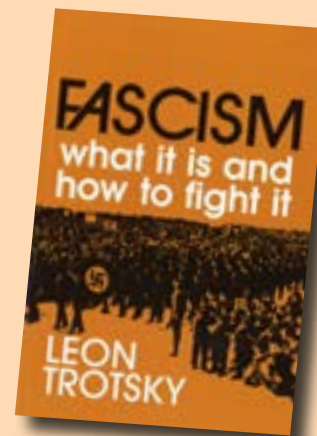
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# Killing Eve is a show defined by its complex characters

The new series of this high octane BBC thriller builds on the complex relationship between spook Eve and assassin Villanelle, writes **Sophie Squire**

**KILLING EVE** is back after a first series that was a television highlight of last year.

It's a fast-paced and thrilling ride centred on a female assassin and the MI5 staff tasked with taking her out.

It all has all the enjoyable aspects of a spy or police thriller and would be immensely entertaining even without the aspects that make it truly special.

Killing Eve is at times funny and camp, at times shocking and stomach churning.

But what truly makes it stand out is its outstanding characterisation.

Eve and Villanelle—played compellingly by Sandra Oh and Jodie Comer respectively—are characters so well written that the audience can't help but immerse themselves in their worlds.

Sandra Oh's character is capable, honest and above all flawed.

As series one progresses, her obsession with Villanelle becomes ever more apparent, affecting all aspects of her life including her relationships.

She disobeys orders and does things that seem irrational.

Yet these are the most winning aspects of her character and why we are able to feel such a sense of sympathy with her.

The audience is made to feel similarly for Villanelle, despite her being a ruthless assassin.

Series two begins just after series one ended—with Eve stabbing



THE ANTI-HERO Villanelle is seriously wounded in the opening shots of the new series of Killing Eve

Villanelle in the stomach. The beginning of series two finds Villanelle gravely wounded.

Villanelle is at her most vulnerable. She uses her skills as an assassin to stay alive.

She has to adopt the character of a woman being abused by her stepfather to get a place for her to stay at a stranger's house.

Her frustration at a situation in which she doesn't have the

upper hand is visceral.

These scenes will certainly resonate with anyone who has had to play a predesignated role that they had no control over.

## Complex

The greatest achievement of Killing Eve is that it presents two incredibly complex female characters.

Often a mistake that is made in the writing of female characters for film and television is they are just strong. The trope of the "strong female character" becomes the idea that such characters can only be one thing.

They can't hurt or make mistakes or do bad things because they are too busy being good and capable.

The writing of Eve and Villanelle never strays into this.

They are both deeply flawed with demons and conflicting emotions while still both beings skilled at their jobs and resilient.

Expect the tension between Villanelle and Eve to build to unbearable levels. Above all expect to have your idea about who is bad and who is good turned on its head.

Killing Eve begins on BBC One on Sat 8 June. Also available on iPlayer



Eve Polastri is transfixed by Villanelle

## Allegory for the fall of the Austro-Hungarian empire

### FILM

#### SUNSET

Directed by Laszlo Nemes  
In cinemas now

BUDAPEST HIGH society basked in a heatwave in the summer of 1913. In Hungarian language drama *Sunset*, its depravity, decadence—and destruction—lie in the shadows.

Orphan Irisz Leiter (Juli Jakab) has returned to the Austro-Hungarian Empire's second city in the hope of working in the

famous Leiter hat shop. She soon finds that behind millinery lies villainry.

The Leiter shop and its staff and customers are an allegory of Austro-Hungarian society. As one character tells Irisz towards the end, "The horror of the world hides beneath these infinitely pretty things."

The Countess Redey spends her days high on opium, mourning her husband's death five years on.

Her evenings are taken up hosting fashionable parties, where guests are



Juli Jakab as Irisz Leiter

entertained by her child protegee son.

Lurking around is the sadistic Austrian aristocrat Otto von Koenig, preparing the ground for an imperial visit to the city.

The likes of Koenig seem distant from even their Hungarian peers. But the shop's owner Oszkar Brill, brilliantly portrayed by Vlad Ivanov, plays the imperial bureaucrat stubbornly hanging onto their coattails.

And outside the streets swelter with violence and nationalist discontent. Irisz

finds out that she has a brother, who supposedly murdered the Count Redey and now leads a group of anarchist come nationalist bandits.

Director Laszlo Nemes's style relies on wide shots that focus on faces with the rest of the scene blurred. This means it can seem to be visually hallucinatory—which doesn't work throughout the whole film.

Yet the film remains immersive and keeps you watching to its rather horrific finale.

**Julia Ryder**

### TELEVISION

#### DEADWOOD

On Sky Atlantic and available from other streaming sites

THE ORIGINAL three series of *Deadwood* were some of the best television to come out of the US in the last decades. Now the film is here.

The brutally ruthless venture capitalist George Hearst, now senator for the state of California, has returned to the small town in South Dakota. He has carefully stepped over the large pile of bodies he has left behind him.

Much of the old cast has been reunited, despite 13 years passing since the



Ian McShane as Al Swearngen

end of the third series, with Ian McShane revelling in his role as the vile Al Swearngen.

### EXHIBITION

#### DARK MATTER—95 PERCENT OF THE UNIVERSE IS MISSING

At the Science Gallery, Great Maze Pond, London SE1 9GU. From 6 June until 26 August. Free

ONE OF the biggest mysteries in physics today is what exactly makes up our Universe, and why 95 percent of it cannot be observed.

Normal matter—everything that we can see and observe—makes up 5 percent of the Universe.

The rest, including dark matter and dark energy, is an unknown that scientists have been hunting for nearly a century.

This exhibition highlights the critical role of artists, philosophers and storytellers in our understanding of reality.

### THEATRE

#### BITTER WHEAT

Directed by David Mamet. At the Garrick Theatre, London. From 7 June until 10 September. From £25

THIS PLAY, starring John Malkovich, is an allegorical take on the story of disgraced Hollywood film executive Harvey Weinstein.



**LEADERS of the Western countries will gather for the 75th anniversary of D-Day in Normandy, northern France, on 6 June.**

They will present the Allied invasion of Nazi-occupied France as a moment when people united against Adolf Hitler and fascism.

And for Donald Trump and other Western leaders it's an opportunity to push the myth that the US saved the world for democracy.

The reality is more complex than the myths.

Many ordinary people saw the Second World War as a war against Hitler and the fascists.

Although for many there wasn't "national unity" as hostility to the rich and their conduct of the war ran deep.

Across Nazi-occupied Europe, some people took part in resistance movements.

But the rulers of the US, Britain and Russia didn't see it as a war to liberate the peoples of Europe from fascism.

They fought the war to determine who would control Europe and the world after Hitler's defeat.

Relationships between US and British generals were fraught in the run-up to D-Day on 6 June 1944.

Alan Brooke, head of the British Army, wrote that US General Eisenhower was "quite unsuited to the post of supreme allied commander as far as running the war is concerned".

These tensions reflected bigger rivalries among the US and British ruling classes.

### Defeat

After the defeat of France in 1940, British prime minister Winston Churchill aimed to hold out long enough to pressure the US to join the war.

But the main focus for Britain's war effort was the Mediterranean.

To safeguard its Empire, Britain needed to keep control of Egypt and the Middle East.

Even before the US joined the war, it wanted to make sure that it would gain from the decline of the British Empire.

US and British leaders held a series of meetings where they agreed to focus on taking on Germany.

But the Japanese Empire, an ally of Germany, launched a surprise attack on the US's Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbour, Hawaii. So the US deployed more resources in the Pacific for much of the war.

This started to change after Russia turned the tide on Germany. The US didn't want Russia to control Europe after the war. But it had to force the plan to invade Normandy on Britain, which still wanted to focus on the Mediterranean and invading through Italy.

With over 150,000 US,



# POLITICS OF THE D-DAY LANDINGS

As the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings sees politicians commemorate the events **Tomáš Tengely-Evans** looks at the horrific reality of the Second World War



Winston Churchill

British and other Allied troops, the D-Day landings were the largest seaborne invasion in history.

The landings were preceded by a massive naval barrage and bombardments by the Royal Air Force and US Air Force.

German General Joseph Reichert, the 711 Infantry Division's commander, said that the "whole horizon appeared to be a solid mass of flames" when battleships fired their first salvos. The aim was to take a

**Tensions reflected bigger rivalries among the US and British ruling classes**

50 mile stretch of five beaches—codenamed Juno, Gold, Omaha, Utah and Sword.

As the boat doors opened, one US sergeant remembered "machine guns ripping into the ramps and men tumbling just like corn cobs off ramps".

Some of the worst horror took place on Omaha beach, where winds had blown landing boats off course.

Another soldier said that the whole beach was "strewn with dead, wounded and

shelter-seeking soldiers".

The reality should dispel any right wing or nationalist romanticism about war.

Many soldiers had already had a taste of how deadly landings could be during Operation Tiger—a large scale training exercise off the Devon coast in April 1944.

Eisenhower and other officers insisted that the troops have some combat experience.

US troops defending the coast were supposed to fire live ammunition over the tops of approaching landing craft.

A foul-up over timings meant troops landed into a hail of bullets, killing as many as 450 of them.

By the end of D-Day the Allied assault had overwhelmed the German defences, but with around 10,000 casualties.

Of those 2,400 soldiers lay dead on the beaches—and around 9,000 died on the German side.

Allied deaths weren't higher partly because the Nazi war machine had been severely ground down.

**I**N THE West, D-Day is often presented as the key turning point in the Second World War. But the Battle of Kursk on the Eastern Front in 1943—the biggest tank battle in history—had been far more decisive.

Russia suffered over 800,000 casualties and lost 6,064 tanks and artillery pieces, and nearly 2,000 aircraft. Afterwards the Germans were never able to launch a major offensive on the Eastern Front.

And two weeks after D-Day Russia launched "Operation Bagration", the biggest military defeat suffered by Germany.

It drove the German army back to Warsaw in Poland.

These sorts of losses on the Eastern Front had a big impact on Nazi Germany's ability to wage war.

Military defeats had increased infighting among different sections of the Nazi regime.

Hitler had gradually increased his influence over military strategy, not trusting his generals who had had a freer hand at the beginning of the war.

Germany's officer corps, made up of conservative aristocrats, had backed the Nazi regime when things were going well.

Some now hoped to get rid of Hitler, make peace with the US, Britain and the Allies in the West, and focus on Russia.

General Rommel, who was commander in Normandy, only had control of one armoured division within striking distance of the beaches.

The bulk of the tanks were placed under the direct control of the High Command in Berlin and could not be moved without Hitler's permission.

The Normandy coast was guarded by infantry that relied



**BRITISH (left) and US troops (above) on the beaches of Normandy during the D-Day Landings**

on foot or horse and cart for transport.

This was a far cry from the "Blitz Krieg"—lightning war—of tanks, motorised troops and air superiority that lay behind German military success.

**W**ARS aren't just won on the battlefield—economic power is just as decisive.

David Render, who served with the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry tank unit, described the rate of attrition in Normandy.

He recalled, "There were three regiments in the brigade and each regiment had 50 tanks "To keep 150 tanks, they had to supply us with 1,073 new ones.

"I came out of three tanks—I didn't lose the last one—and that was nothing."

Virtually the whole of the German economy was geared towards war production by 1944.

And the Allies' "strategic bombing" of factories often missed its targets.

But the Germans couldn't keep up with losses to Russia on the Eastern Front and the US and to Britain in France and Italy.

The situation was made worse by a lack

of fuel.

The German army had failed to capture the Russian oil fields in 1942—and lost the oil fields of Romania to the Russian army not long after D-Day in August 1944.

Britain could not have matched these sorts of losses by itself.

For all the bluster, it was an empire in terminal decline.

The real economic power behind the Western war effort was the US, which supplied the other Allies and Russia and saw its own economy expand.

The Second World War marked the moment when the US overtook Britain as an imperialist power.

This was obvious in the Middle East.

Throughout the war Roosevelt and Churchill competed for Saudi Arabia's favour in the hope of gaining control over its large oil fields.

By 1945 US power had won, diminishing Britain as a player in Middle Eastern oil.

Throughout the war, help to Britain came at a price of promising to sign up to an international capitalist order led by the US after it finished.

It set the stage for the Cold War where the US and Stalinist Russia competed for domination.

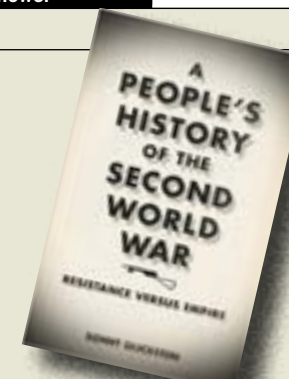
Far from building a world of democracy after victory over fascism, the US built a deadly order that led to more conflict.

### READ MORE

● **A band of brothers? International Socialism 103**  
by Michael Bradley  
[isj.org.uk/a-band-of-brothers](http://isj.org.uk/a-band-of-brothers)

● **A People's History of the Second World War**  
by Donny Gluckstein  
£22

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General Eisenhower



## How the way was cleared for capitalism in Scotland

A new book by **Tom Devine** offers a fresh interpretation of how capitalism was established in Scotland. He spoke to Charlie Kimber



**A CROFTING family cutting peat**



eliminated. Nothing of them now remains.

"There is just the occasional small village in an empty landscape."

In the south, in the Lammermuir hills, between 1800 and 1825,

54 settlements were abandoned. Devine said, "Then the Cheviot and Blackface sheep were taken north by the Borders flockmasters and shepherds."

The Highlands clearances were seen as more traumatic because they were the end of a whole way of life based on the clan. The culture was that people farmed clan land and offered military service to the clan leaders in exchange for protection.

"It was a deep hurt," says Devine. In the Lowlands it became established that at the end of tenancy the landlord could repossess the land. It was resented

and unwelcome, but seen as how the system worked."

"In the Highlands people were culturally disorientated, there was complete

incomprehension that this could happen. It was brutality which, especially in its final phase at a time of famine, was made worse by racist attitudes against Highlanders."

Devine adds that there was some resistance, notably the Lowlands Levellers' Revolt in Galloway in the 1720s.

In the face of displacement, groups of people—sometimes as many as 2,000—formed armed groups and destroyed the dykes that has been used to create cattle parks.

"Afterwards there is almost complete silence," he said. "In the Highlands there were between 50 and 55 acts of resistance, including substantial collective opposition."

"But most opposition was ineffectual. People were facing the might of the state and the acts of dispossession were all lawful."

**Moved**  
Seeing no other way out, most people moved to the coastal areas, to the industrial centres or migrated.

Later on there was the Crofters' War of the 1880s. This saw the use of police and soldiers against those fighting high rents and dispossession. It won the reform of the Crofters Holding Act of 1886.

Tom Devine's book is a powerful read on how capitalism rooted itself and grew in Scotland, with the horrors carried out by both English and Scottish rich.

You don't have to have specialist interest or knowledge to enjoy it and learn from it.



Tom Devine



# CS gas 'could have contributed to death'

by SADIE ROBINSON

**POLICE USE of CS gas could have contributed to the death of Edson Da Costa, an inquest has heard.**

Edson died after being stopped by police in Beckton, east London, in June 2017.

Officers pinned him to the ground and one sprayed CS gas in his face. He was pronounced dead in hospital six days later.

Medical expert Professor Jerry Nolan gave evidence to the inquest into his death on Wednesday of last week.

He said the use of CS gas "could in theory" have contributed to Edson's death.

Nolan said that Edson had likely gone into cardiac arrest by the time he was placed in the recovery position.

This was minutes after he got out of the car he was stopped in.

Nolan agreed that the cause of Edson's death was lack of oxygen after a plastic bag containing wraps of drugs became lodged in his throat.

He said it would have been "difficult" to tell whether



**EDIR DA Costa, known as Edson, died after police stopped his car**

Edson was having trouble breathing. Nolan said the use of CS spray could "make airway obstruction worse". He also said it could alleviate an obstruction if it made someone cough.

Nolan said Edson's life

could have been saved "if it had been recognised he had an airway obstruction and it was dealt with before he lost consciousness and had cardio respiratory arrest".

He said officers "did everything they possibly could"

to save him. He also said, "If freed from restraint and encouraged to cough up the bags of wraps, in my opinion, he would have survived."

The inquest also heard from Ian Read, a lead safety training officer with the

Metropolitan Police. He compared being sprayed with CS gas with having a shower.

Asked about the risks involved with CS gas Read said, "If it gets in the eye, there's an increased risk, but no more risk than a water

pistol or power shower hitting the eye. There's a potential for causing injury but it is very unlikely."

Police guidelines recommend using CS spray on someone at a distance of one metre.

The court heard that Edson was sprayed with CS gas around a pen's length from his face.

Three of the officers who restrained Edson said he was sprayed before they knew he had drugs in his mouth.

One officer recalled the drugs being mentioned before Edson was sprayed.

Read said, "If you are restraining somebody and they have drugs in their mouth, it's probably not appropriate to spray that person with CS unless they are holding a weapon."

Senior coroner Nadia Persaud asked whether officers should have asked Edson if he was choking after they saw drugs come out of his mouth. Read said this is not covered in safety training.

The jury was set to be sent to consider its conclusions as Socialist Worker went to press.

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# Equal pay victory in Glasgow shows the power of workers

Over a decade of resistance in Scotland has won equal pay settlements for 14,000 mainly women council workers—and their walkouts were key to the result, writes Sarah Bates

**THOUSANDS OF** low paid women are celebrating in Glasgow this week after receiving details of their equal pay settlements.

Some 14,000 council workers—predominantly women—fought for 12 years against a discriminatory pay scheme.

They've been underpaid for so long that many will now receive tens of thousands of pounds.

Glasgow council wanted to keep their unequal pay scales. The fight against them languished in union vacillations and legal shenanigans (see right). Some 170 women died before they got pay justice.

Workers fought a Labour-run council for a decade. When the Scottish National Party (SNP) took minority control of the council in May 2017, it promised to resolve the dispute.

But the SNP administration, led by Susan Aitken, abandoned negotiations. A 48-hour strike in October last year brought the city to its knees and the council to the negotiating table.

Unison union steward Ingrid Bain told Socialist Worker, "Had we not come out on strike we would never have got this amount of money."

## Ruled

Courts had ruled that the council's pay scales were discriminatory. But workers still had to strike to get the money they were owed.

Ingrid said strikes were key to causing the council to "bottle it".

"Aitken thought she would get away with a couple of grand and a carrot at Christmas time," said Ingrid. "But then she got over 8,000 women screaming at her front door."

Unison steward Lyn Marie O'Hara told Socialist Worker, "For claimants



COUNCIL WORKERS on strike in October last year

PICTURES: ANDREW MCGOWAN

12 years is a long time. Five years is a long time. A year is a long time if your pay isn't right.

"It's not greed, it's about valuing your workforce."

Hundreds of other council workers refused to cross strikers' picket lines and took action in solidarity. Lyn Marie said, "Bus drivers were refusing to take bus fares off people. Bin men came out and no one got punished for it." Around 200 claimants who owe the council money won't get a penny

because their debts outstrip their settlement. Others who receive over £16,000 will have their Employment and Support Allowance stopped.

But for many the settlements are life changing.

Ingrid has worked as a cleaning supervisor and catering assistant for 23 years.

She said her offer left her weeping, feeling "over the moon" and ready to book a family holiday to Jamaica. Others can make big changes that they

couldn't make before. "You hear of people clearing their debts and people leaving their husbands," said Ingrid.

Lyn Marie said it's not just the settlement that has changed people, but the experience of fighting back.

"During the strike it was the workers in charge," she said. "People want to talk about our strike—I say take it back to your workmates."

"Tell them to become members of a trade union, campaigners, strikers and winners."

## 'It's a totally different workforce since our strikes'

**GLASGOW** women have won a stunning victory—but the story is far from over.

A new pay scheme is yet to be put in place.

Ingrid will be involved in building a new job evaluation scheme.

This should see all workers' responsibilities finally being recognised.

Ingrid said, "In home care, the job has changed."

"Workers use hoists, bath people and do peg feeding, where a tube is put into someone's stomach." The re-evaluation is a chance

to take other things, such as unsocial hours, into account too.

Some staff work early shifts due to childcare.

Ingrid said, "I get up at 4am to go to work at 5am."

"Management say we could choose to work later, but the majority of women have got kids they need to get to school."

The re-evaluation is set to start this month and is expected to take two years to come into effect.

The current settlement doesn't take into account any work after March 2018. So workers are



Ingrid (left) and Lyn Marie on strike for equal pay

set to receive a further backpay settlement.

The council shouldn't use the re-evaluation as an excuse to use levelling-up some roles as an excuse to cut others' pay.

And council bosses should be wary about delaying.

Ingrid said, "Workers have realised what they can do when they band together. It's a totally different workforce than before the strike."

"You ask everyone if they'd fight again—they'd do it tomorrow and the council knows that."

## How were women ripped off?

**THE** Glasgow dispute is part of a series of "single status" battles across Britain.

Most councils adopt pay scales that are nationally agreed with unions, but Glasgow created its own—the Workforce Pay and Benefits Review (WPBR).

It came into force in 2006 and saw jobs predominantly done by women graded at a rate of up to £3 an hour lower than jobs done by men.

And the WPBR



Strikes won over pay

excluded part time workers—the vast majority of whom are women—from receiving bonuses.

It also meant some men lost out on bonuses. But they were given three-year payment protection—the women weren't.

Workers initially challenged this through individual employment tribunals.

In August 2017 the Court of Session ruled that the WPBR discriminated against women workers.

But it took collective action by thousands of workers to get the WPBR thrown out and to win back pay.



## IN BRIEF

**All-out action at Colloids in Kirkby**

WORKERS AT Colloids, a plastic manufacturer in Merseyside, are striking indefinitely against the sacking of their Unite union rep George Gore.

The 36 process operators, at the Kirkby plant began the action on Monday of last week.

Strikers are furious after video footage emerged of management breaching health and safety rules that George was accused of breaking.

Unite's Pat Coyne said, "If Colloids is that safety conscious, then why are its managers not being sacked for breaking the rules too?"

**Unofficial post strike hits Peterborough**

POSTAL WORKERS at a Royal Mail delivery office and mail centre in Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, struck unofficially last Thursday.

The CWU union members returned to work later that day "after negotiations and certain assurances have been made". The CWU Eastern No 5 branch praised the "great support from members".

**Sweet smell of success at Chanel**

WORKERS ARE claiming victory over pay at multinational firm Chanel's store in London.

Bosses offered cleaners, members of the United Voices of the World union, a rise of 10 percent to £9.10 an hour after they threatened to strike.

But workers kept up strike plans. Chanel has now said it will pay the London Living Wage of £10.55 an hour to cleaners across its stores.

**Nuclear meltdown gets put on hold**

WORKERS AT Sellafield postponed a 14-day strike that was set to begin last Sunday after management agreed to further talks.

Around 180 Unite union members in catering, cleaning, security, laundry and environmental services at the nuclear plant in Cumbria are fighting over pay.

They are employed by outsourcer Mitie. If there is no deal, strikes were set to begin on Thursday this week and continue until 17 June.

**Loulou's elite will meet the workers**

WORKERS AT Loulou's private members club in Mayfair, London, were set to protest this Friday as part of a campaign to stop kitchen porters being outsourced.

Demands also include the London Living Wage of £10.55 an hour and "decent occupational sick pay".

The workers are members of the IWGB union.

●Join the protest. Go to [bit.ly/LouLouProtest](http://bit.ly/LouLouProtest)

## EDUCATION

**Protests at school cuts**

THOUSANDS OF people protested over the crisis in Special Education Needs and Disabilities funding on Thursday of last week.

Protests, rallies and other events took place in 28 towns and cities across England and Wales.

Demonstrators called for cuts in school funding to be reversed.

Parent Ann Jillings marched with her son Daniel, who is deaf, in Ipswich. She

told a local newspaper, "It's a worrying picture for the future when we're seeing services for deaf children cut."

In London parents, disabled children, school workers and others delivered a petition to Downing Street before rallying in Parliament Square.

Kevin Courtney, joint general secretary of the NEU union, said that children and parents are "bearing the brunt of real-terms funding cuts".



MARCHING IN London

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

## VICTIMISATION

**Defend black activist against victimisation**

THE UCU union has launched a national campaign to call for the immediate reinstatement of Sandwell College UCU branch secretary and maths lecturer Dave Muritu.

Dave was sacked last week following a disciplinary hearing. He was charged with bringing the college into disrepute.

Dave is a widely known anti-racist campaigner and former chair of the UCU black members standing committee.

He has years of service in educating young people.

**Lifeline**

Dave's offence was to write "racist" on a Prevent poster.

Prevent is used by colleges and universities to target Muslims and used to clamp down on dissent. UCU's own policy describes it as racist.

There is simply no justification for sacking Dave.

This decision comes as the racists and far right are gaining confidence. The college is sending out the wrong message.

The UCU believes that Dave has been sacked because he is a trade union rep and that this is trade union victimisation.



Protesting at Sandwell College on Monday PICTURE: MARTIN LYNCH

Local reps believe the attack on Dave follows a long line of attempts to sideline and undermine the union locally.

During half-term reps from the UCU and NEU unions met up to kick start a campaign to reinstate Dave. Nita Sanghera, UCU Vice President Elect, attended and pledged her support. Dave was invited to speak at the regional anti-racist TUC conference last Saturday.

The committee to reinstate Dave has called a demonstration at Sandwell College on Wednesday of next week. All those able to attend should bring union banners.

**What you can do**

●Protest to reinstate Dave Muritu, Wed 12 June, assemble 12.30pm, Sandwell College, Central Campus, 1 Spon Lane, West Bromwich B70 6AW.

●Take solidarity selfies on the day of this demo with posters of "Prevent 'racist'—reinstate Dave Muritu, no trade union victimisation." Tweet these at #feightsback and @ucu.

●Send messages of solidarity to Dave Muritu [dmuritu@hotmail.com](mailto:dmuritu@hotmail.com).

●Send messages of protest to: College Principal Graham Pennington [graham.pennington@sandwell.ac.uk](mailto:graham.pennington@sandwell.ac.uk)

## SCOTTISH FE LECTURERS

THE SCOTTISH college lecturers' dispute looks like it is drawing to a close after six months.

Lecturers in the EIS union are balloting on a pay offer.

Although the deal on offer falls short of the original claim, this result is not the drubbing the other side was hoping for.

Scottish lecturers decisively defeated management in 2016 and again in 2017.

All-out indefinite action brought equalised pay and improved conditions across all Scotland's colleges.

This year, with the EIS asking for a cost-of-living increase, the employers

planned to sit out strikes and break the union. It seems likely they had tacit Scottish government approval.

EIS lecturers held a series of monthly strikes.

This then escalated to two days supplemented by other action—refusing to enter students' results into college systems.

This ultimately brought some concessions both on pay and separately on conditions.

The results of the campaign are nothing to crow about, but management plans were thwarted and the union comes out of this in good shape.

## EDUCATION ROUND-UP

UCU UNION members at Nottingham College are balloting for strikes.

The UCU said new contracts would leave more than 80 percent of workers over £1,000 a year worse off.

They would also cut holiday and sick pay.

Workers protested against the contracts at college sites last week. The ballot ends on Friday of this week.

■WORKERS AT West Thames College and New City College struck over pay on

Tuesday of this week. The action is part of a long-running UCU campaign.

■AROUND 100 UCU union members and supporters protested outside a meeting of the Portsmouth University Executive Board on Monday of this week.

Some 120 members of staff in the Science Faculty are at risk of compulsory redundancy. National pay and conditions are also under threat.

**Penny Fosskett**

## ANTI-FRACKING



A clear message to fracking bosses

**Fighting against Ineos**

Anti-fracking campaigners in South Yorkshire were set to protest in Rotherham on Tuesday of next week as a public inquiry gets underway.

Rotherham council has twice voted against applications by Ineos to frack in the village of Woodsetts.

But Ineos has appealed the decision, leading to the

inquiry. Woodsetts resident Richard Scholey said, "Our village said no to fracking. Our elected councillors have said no twice. I'm outraged Ineos have the arrogance to come back again."

●Protest Tue 11 June, 9am, Riverside House, Main Street, Rotherham S60 1AE. Called by Woodsetts Against Fracking

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**Indefinite libraries strike set for Bromley**

AN INDEFINITE strike at Bromley libraries in south east London is on the books.

Around 50 Unite union members at 14 libraries were set to walk out from Thursday of this week.

Workers, employed by Greenwich Leisure Limited, voted 98 percent to strike over pay and a host of other issues.

The 50 workers say that bosses haven't filled vacant posts and are asking workers to be managers without paying the proper rate.

They are fighting for a 6 percent rise in basic pay backdated to April 2019.

■SOCIAL WORKERS in West Dunbartonshire near Glasgow could be headed for walkouts after voting 99 percent for strikes on an 82 percent turnout.

The Unison union members are fighting excessive workloads, inappropriate working environments and health and safety issues.

Simon McFarlane, Unison regional organiser, said, "Our members are taking a stand not only for themselves, but for the services they provide to the most vulnerable children and families."

Workers should call strikes soon to focus bosses' minds.

■ABOUT 80 protesters lobbied a meeting of Barnsley council cabinet last Wednesday. The Unison union organised parents, children and teachers to demand the council reverse plans to privatise the school meals service.

The council leader promised he would postpone any decision until after schools had been consulted.

Protesters celebrated by marching through Barnsley. **George Arthur**



TRANSPORT

# Bus drivers gear up for more pay strikes

**AROUND 300 bus drivers at Stagecoach depots in Chorley and Preston struck last Friday and Saturday as part of a long-running battle over pay.**

Unite union members in Lancashire, who struck for four days last month, want a 50p an hour pay rise to £11.

Workers' strength of feeling was shown in the strike ballot, which saw them vote by 98 percent for strikes on an 83 percent turnout.

John Boughton, Unite regional industrial organiser, said, "The workers are the poor relation within the group."

"Colleagues in Liverpool, Chester, and on the Wirral are on higher rates of pay."

"Even with this pay rise they would still be the lowest paid."

## Profit

In 2018 the Stagecoach Group's pre-tax profit was £95 million—an increase of 432 percent on the previous year.

Drivers are set to walk out again next Tuesday and then 18 June, 29 June and 13 and 16 July.

Boughton said, "We met with the company on 20 May and there was no improved offer whatsoever so the action is carrying on."

## A CONFIDENT bus workers' picket line in Lancashire

We thought they would put something to us and we were prepared to compromise and put an offer to them, which they rejected."

Stagecoach has brought in extra drivers during strike days to try and keep its services running.

THE UNITE union has said it won't allow First Bus bosses

to launch attacks on workers. Its parent company, FirstGroup, announced last week that it intends to sell off its bus operations in Britain.

Bobby Morton is Unite's national officer for passenger transport. He said, "Unite won't tolerate one single job loss or attack on our members' terms and conditions

as a result of this sell-off process."

BUS DRIVERS, cleaners and ticket office staff on Bluestar Buses in Eastleigh, Totton and Poole are set to strike on Tuesday 18 June over pay.

The RMT union members voted 87 percent in favour of strikes.

NHS



Picture: Julie Simmons

Up to 100 people joined a march to demand action on the NHS staffing crisis in Oxford on Saturday of last week. It was called by the local Unison and Unite union health branches and other local unions and health campaigns.

## HEALTH ROUND-UP

# Strike threat in Liverpool scores win over NHS pay

PRIVATISED workers at the Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen hospitals are celebrating a victory over equal pay.

The Unison and GMB union members had planned to strike last Thursday to demand the same rate of pay as workers who are employed directly by the NHS.

They work as porters, cleaners and other support staff for outsourcing giant ISS.

The news follows recent victories over the same issue

at the Royal Bolton Hospital, Liverpool Women's Hospital and Doncaster and Bassetlaw hospitals.

UNISON UNION members at Princess Alexandra Hospital in Harlow, Essex, were set to strike against plans to outsource their jobs on Thursday.

The 220 cleaners, domestics and other support staff plan a further 48-hour strike from 11 June and a 72-hour strike on 18, 19 and 20 June.

Janet Szpakowski

## SCOTLAND



Picture: Bob Fotheringham

Around 5,000 people joined the All Under One Banner independence demonstration in Galashiels last Saturday. The next event is in Oban on 15 June.

## EXTINCTION REBELLION

# Climate rebels block main roads in Bristol city centre

THE EXTINCTION Rebellion group in Bristol staged a vibrant day of action last Saturday to highlight the impact of the fashion industry on the environment

Around 500 people joined the action, and blocked three roads into the city. They then marched through the city centre and gave out leaflets explaining the reason for the

action—and a piece of cake to motorists.

Activists also held workshops around the theme of the protest in the main shopping area.

Many hadn't been involved in activism before—an indication of a large climate change movement developing in Bristol.

Salena Williams

AVIATION

# Air traffic controllers aim for higher pay in Scotland

AIR TRAFFIC controllers at the Highland and Islands Airports Ltd (HIAL) are set to strike on Wednesday of next week in their fight for higher pay.

The decision follows HIAL bosses' refusal to come back with a new pay offer after a strike last month.

The workers are currently paid around 10 percent less than air traffic controllers at similar-sized airports.

Prospect union negotiator David Avery said, "Since the initial strike we have received no new offer from the employer."

"Therefore our members have taken the decision to undertake a second day of strike." HIAL is owned by

the Scottish government and operates 11 airports in the Scottish Highlands, the Northern Isles and the Western Isles.

STRIKERS AT Glasgow Airport have escalated their action after a breakdown in talks in a dispute over pensions.

The Unite union has announced a further four-hour strike on Friday of next week.

It comes in addition to two 12-hour strikes, which were set to take place this Friday and on Monday of next week.

Workers voted by 95 percent for action in April to defend their final salary pension scheme.

SHIPS

# Walkouts can sink bosses' attacks on Woolwich ferry

WOOLWICH FERRY workers in south east London struck on Monday in the first of a series of strikes over pay and health and safety.

The 31 Unite union members struck for five days last month after a unanimous vote for action.

They are employed by contractor Briggs Marine. Further strikes were set

for Friday this week, Monday next week and then 14 and 17 June.

Workers are angry about bosses' refusal to grant a 6 percent pay increase for the year starting January 2019 and the imposition of new duties.

Other issues include a failure to deal with safety concerns and staffing.

## RAILWAYS

# Rail bosses backtrack

RMT UNION members on South Western Railway plan a five-day strike from Tuesday 18 June.

The union suspended action in February after it believed the company had given assurances about

guards' role in the future.

It pledged that "each passenger train shall operate with a guard with safety-critical competencies".

But the company has since rowed back on its public guarantees.



# RESIST SUDAN'S KILLER REGIME

Revolution hangs in the balance after Sudan's military launched a brutal crackdown against the opposition, reports **Charlie Kimber**. But a call for an indefinite general strike offers hope

**THE SUDANESE military has moved to crush the country's movement for change. But strikes and protests were beginning in an effort to resist, as Socialist Worker went to press on Tuesday.**

The Central Committee of Sudanese Doctors said 35 people—including an eight year old—had been killed and hundreds injured.

The toll was likely to rise as not all casualties had been accounted for.

Security forces used heavy weapons to clear a protest camp in the capital Khartoum early on Monday morning.

The sit-in in front of the army's general command had become the central symbol of the struggle for civilian rule after dictator Omar al-Bashir was brought down in April.

## Shooting

Mohammed Elmunir, a protester in Khartoum, said, "They were shooting at everyone randomly and people were running for their lives."

"They blocked all roads and most tents at the sit-in have been set on fire."

The head of the ruling Transitional Military Council, General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, made a broadcast



Sudan's deposed dictator Omar al-Bashir

on state television. He said the army had decided to stop negotiating with the opposition umbrella group, the Alliance for Freedom and Change, and "cancel what had been agreed on".

He said there would be an election in nine months under "regional and



**Security forces used heavy weapons to clear the main protest camp**

international supervision". The Sudanese Professionals Association, which has been at the centre of revolt, said, "It is imperative to go out to the streets to protect the revolution."

It called for "an open, nationwide, political strike and complete civil disobedience, beginning on 3 June 2019 and until the regime is overthrown".

The repression follows a two-day general strike last week.

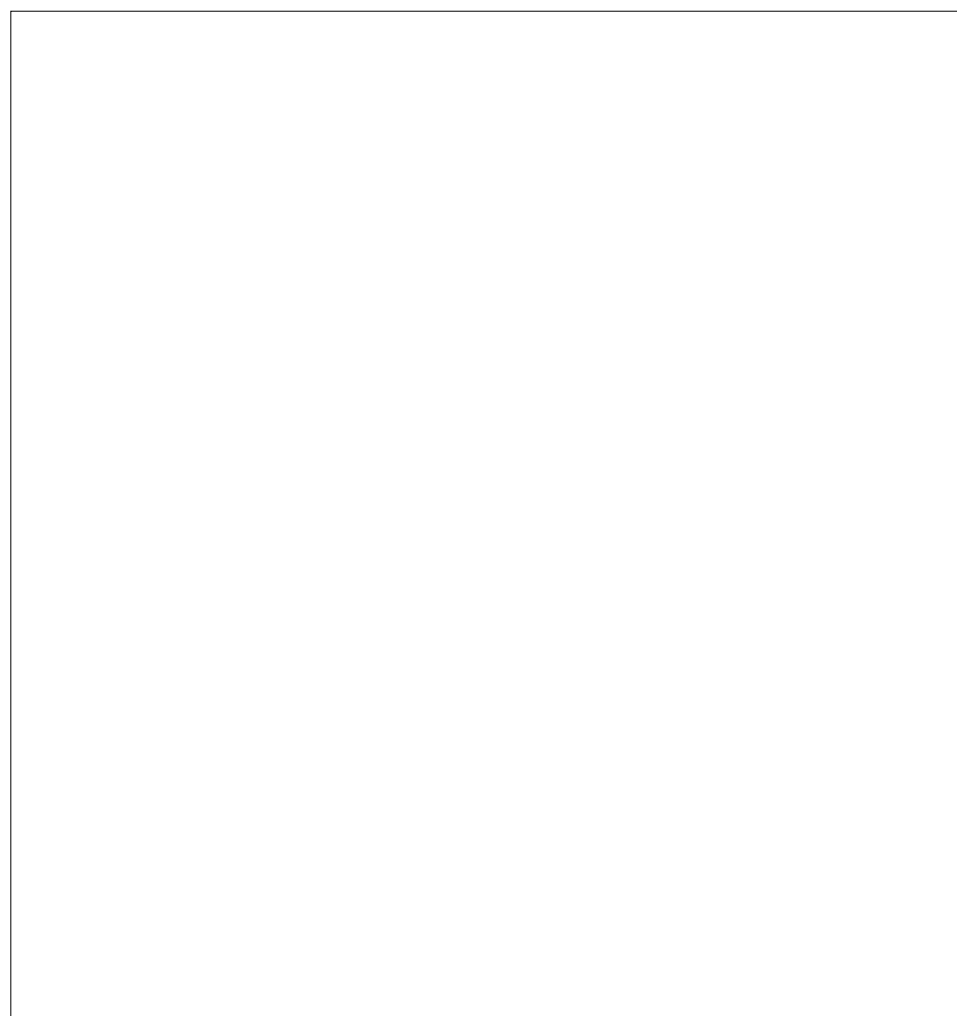
Ports, air traffic, banks, universities, non-emergency hospital services, power plants, telecoms, oil refineries, newspapers and many other sectors were largely shut. And a wide range of workers at private firms struck.

The military had to make further concessions to the movement—or it had to go on the attack.

The crackdown shows there has to be escalation to force the military from power and win change.

Stop the massacre in Sudan, Sat 8 June, 1pm, Trafalgar Square, London. Called by the Alliance of Sudanese Political Forces and Sudanese trade unions in Britain.

For solidarity details go to [menasolidaritynetwork.com](http://menasolidaritynetwork.com)



PROTESTERS TRY to defend the mass sit-in in the capital Khartoum on Monday

## Western leaders' hypocrisy over Sudanese dictatorship

SUDANESE protesters should not rely on the Western governments that condemned the military's massacre this week.

Tory foreign secretary Jeremy Hunt called it an "outrageous step that will only lead to more polarisation and violence".

But the British government has funnelled funding to the Sudanese regime and its military thought the Khartoum



Foreign secretary Jeremy Hunt

Process. The agreement was set up in 2014 to stop refugees fleeing the country to Europe.

It has also backed and armed Saudi Arabia, which supplies the weapons that mow down Sudanese protesters.

The British, the US and the European Union fund dictators across the world—and then recoil in mock horror when they kill people.

## Revolution until victory

ONLY AN escalation of strikes and protests can force the Sudanese military to step aside from power.

These have grown from marches at the beginning of this year to sit-ins to a general strike. They must escalate further.

Strikers, the poor and Sudan's oppressed nationalities need urgently to form their own

democratic centres of power—workers' councils.

These could organise resistance and fight for control of society.

There must also be an attempt to win over those sections of the army that refused to fire on protesters in April.

Armed groups that have been fighting for autonomy could also be involved.